Ethnic groups and Immigration to the U.S.

History:

* Started with the first European settlements in about 1600
* First people settled primarily on the [east coast](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/East_coast_of_the_United_States); later Africans were brought as slaves.
* In the past there have been many waves of immigration which rose and fell over time,
* Attitudes toward new immigrants have cycled between favorable and hostile since the 1790s

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Country | Immigrants before 1790 | Population 1790[[21]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_immigration_to_the_United_States#cite_note-21) |
|  | | |
| Africa[[22]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_immigration_to_the_United_States#cite_note-22) | **360,000** | **757,000** |
| England\* | **230,000** | **2,100,000** |
| [Ulster](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ulster) Scot-Irish\* | **135,000** | **300,000** |
| Germany[[23]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_immigration_to_the_United_States#cite_note-23) | **103,000** | **270,000** |
| [Scotland](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scotland)\* | **48,500** | **150,000** |
| Ireland\* | **8,000** | **(Incl. in Scot-Irish)** |
| Netherlands | **6,000** | **100,000** |
| [Wales](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wales)\* | **4,000** | **10,000** |
| France | **3,000** | **15,000** |
| Jewish[[24]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_immigration_to_the_United_States" \l "cite_note-24) | **1,000** | **2,000** |
| Sweden | **500** | **2,000** |
| Other[[25]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_immigration_to_the_United_States#cite_note-25) | **50,000** | **200,000** |
|  | | |
| British total | **425,500** | **2,560,000** |
| Total[[26]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_immigration_to_the_United_States#cite_note-26) | **950,000** | **3,900,000** |

Legal and Illegal Immigration:

* Illegal immigration describes a non-citizen who has entered the U.S. without government permission or stayed beyond the termination of a visa
* Legal immigration describes a person, who is admitted as legal permanent residents (LPRs)
* Two types of visas are issued by the U.S. government - immigrant and non-immigrant
* Those holding immigrant visas usually go on to become resident aliens or legal permanent residents, and obtain their green cards
* Non-immigrant visas are issued to people who return to their homeland when their trip or schooling is completed, such as tourists or students.

Nowadays:

* The U.S. has with 42 million immigrants (13 percent) more immigrants ( legal and illegal) than any other nation (U.S. total residents 316 million)
* 80 million people, or one-quarter of the overall U.S. population, are either of the first or second generation immigrants

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Rank | Ancestry | Number | Percent of total population |
| 1 | [**German**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German_American) | **49,206,934** | **17.1%** |
| 2 | [**African**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/African_American) | **41,284,752** | **13.6%** |
| 3 | [**Irish**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irish_American) | **35,523,082** | **11.6%** |
| 4 | [**Mexican**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mexican_American) | **31,789,483** | **10.9%** |
| 5 | [**English**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/English_American) | **26,923,091** | **9.0%** |
| 6 | [**American**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_ethnicity) | **19,911,467** | **6.7%** |
| 7 | [**Italian**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Italian_American) | **17,558,598** | **5.9%** |
| 8 | [**Polish**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polish_American) | **9,739,653** | **3.0%** |
| 9 | [**French**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/French_American) | **9,136,092** | **2.9%** |
| 10 | [**Scottish**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scottish_American) | **5,706,263** | **1.9%** |
| 11 | [**Scotch-Irish**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scotch-Irish_American) | **5,102,858** | **1.7%** |
| 12 | [**Amerindian**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Native_Americans_in_the_United_States) | **4,920,336** | **1.6%** |
| 13 | [**Dutch**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dutch_American) | **4,810,511** | **1.6%** |
| 14 | [**Puerto Rican**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Puerto_Ricans_in_the_United_States) | **4,607,774** | **1.5%** |
| 15 | [**Norwegian**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Norwegian_American) | **4,557,539** | **1.5%** |